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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Application Number	10/674,186
Filing Date	September 29, 2003
First Named Inventor	Christopher Hess et al.
Group Art Unit	3762
Examiner Name	Not assigned
Attorney Docket Number	END5212USNP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
MK		4,909,789		Akihiro, et al.	03-20-1990	ALL
		5,352,235		Koros, et al.	10-04-1994	ALL
		5,626,597		Urban, et al.	05-06-1997	ALL
		5,908,436		Frank, et al.	06-01-1999	ALL
		6,575,919		Scribner, et al.	06-10-2003	ALL
		US 2001/018553		Haan, et al.	08-30-2001	ALL
		US 2002/062065		Daniel, et al.	05-23-2002	ALL
MK		US 2002/095177		Kupferschmid, et al.	07-18-2002	ALL

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵				
MK		DE	203 11 293	U1	Aesculap AG & Co. KG	09-18-2003	ALL	T
MK		EP	0 908 141	A1	Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Inc.	04-14-1999	ALL	
MK		WO	02/39910	A2	ESD Medical, LLC	05-23-2002	ALL	
							ALL	
							ALL	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	8/10/5
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SUBMISSION UNDER MPEP 609 D Page 1 of 1	Application Number	10/674,186
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OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initials ⁴	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T ²
MLK		EPO Search Report dated December 28, 2004 for corresponding patent application, European Patent Application No. EP 04 25 6001 (Atty. Docket No. END5212).	
MLK		EPO Search Report dated January 17, 2005 for corresponding patent application, European Patent Application No. EP 04 25 6010 (Atty. Docket No. END5214).	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	8/10/5
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Application Number	10/674,188
Filing Date	September 28, 2003
First Named Inventor	Christopher Heas et al.
Group Art Unit	3762
Examiner Name	Not assigned
Attorney Docket Number	END5212USNP

Examiner Initials	Ct • Np Y	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code* (if known)			
ML		2005/0070885	A1	Hess et al.	03/31/2005	ALL
ML		2005/0070754	A1	Nobis et al.	03/31/2005	ALL
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